

THE AGGIE-Nizer

Student Progress Best Determined By Examinations

By JOEL AUSTIN Battalion Co-Editor

Are examinations necessary in colleges and universities today?

Students would disagree with college administrators who would most likely defend the final examination.



Austin

The disagreement, in most cases, would be on the selfish, lazy point of view so indicative of today's young person who spends a portion of adolescence and early manhood or womanhood at an institution of higher learning.

Why do students dislike a final examination?

Many reasons are apparent, but among those which stand out most is that fear of having to "re-cram" in a short time everything the professor has attempted to teach in the course.

Why should members of the faculty or administrators defend the examination?

Our guess for their answer: an examination is the best indication of how well the student knows subject matter presented in the course. That is, the best indication under our present practices.

Through the system of "modern" education we make higher learning available to practically any person who wants it and then say here it is—take it or leave it. If today's student is attentive and spends much time on his courses outside of class, chances are he will receive high marks because of relative high grades on examinations.

Emphasis is placed on "dig it out for yourself—if you can't get it in class."

Received Through Education

From history books and from talking to scholars of many years we hear about the student of many years ago who went to a university to gain an education. He was seeking just that—an education. He may have thought about specializing in one of the arts, but in becoming proficient in this art he was also taught languages, classical music, and appreciation of a painter's creations.

He learned these things usually by consulting with men or women who were experts in a particular field. He studied with them personally and they could develop his interest and appreciation of the subject matter through personal consultation.

Today we have a different concept of education because so many young people may obtain higher learning than in the era of education 50 or 100 years ago. No longer do we find the student who spends an hour or two with the professor after class going over lecture notes or text material.

The professor is not to blame because students hesitate to consult him about class matters. He usually establishes regular office hours and is seldom visited.

The student of today—especially at A&M—has found a great amount of pressure from other students who look at him with an eye of wonderment, implying those who seek consultation from professors are attempting to gain "pull".

Faculty-Student Tie Practically Severed

This very feeling has caused the tie between students and members of the faculty to practically become severed. It is almost impossible for an instructor to talk over the course material with students personally to get an indication of what he has learned.

Therefore we find that examinations are the only means of finding out what the student knows. Through the necessity of these examinations the student is defeating the very thing that could help him become more educated—educated that is, in the field in which he is forced to specialize.

Are examinations necessary? Of course they are. And they will continue to exist in our colleges because students in large colleges such as A&M refuse to maintain contact on a more personal level with their instructors.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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FROM THE CITY DESK

Proposed School Bond Issue Of \$650,000 In Summary

By HARRI BAKER Battalion City Editor

The school board's \$650,000 bond issue election will be put before the voters Tuesday. Since the school board proposed a bond issue two months ago, its merits and faults have been widely discussed by almost every one in College Station.

Here is a survey of the issue: The Plan:

The election is to authorize the school board to issue bonds amounting to \$650,000 to build new school buildings and buy land, equipment, and repair the present facilities. Much of the controversy has arisen over the 50 per cent increase in taxes that the school board says it will need to pay for the bond issue. Many people feel College Station cannot support the increase in property evaluations such a raise would make necessary. The school board has said that it would leave the decision as to how the tax raise would be effected to the taxpayers by open hearings.

Any combination of raising evaluations and cutting back rates could be used to effect the raise. The school board has the power to raise evaluations and rates. This could be done at any time, regardless of the bond issue. They emphasize that taxes are not the issue in this election.

"Where will the tax raise stop?" sums up many objections to the plan. Some people feel that even if the school board cuts back the rates after an evaluation raise, the rates could be raised by another school board in later years. Its possible, but an elected school board is a reflection of the wishes of the voters.

The Reason for the Bonds:

An increase in school population that will almost double the present enrollment is the reason for the new facilities. Two surveys, one by the nationally-known architectural firm of Caudill, Rowlett and Scott, and another from Supt. Les Richardson's records, show that the increase will become serious within two years.

At present, the school is overcrowded. Next year, the overcrowding will result in one of the grades, probably the first, having double sessions. The building of an elementary school now, and a high school when the need is greater, has been advocated by some citizens. However, it takes one year to build an elementary school and two years to build a high school. If College Station is to have the facilities ready when the increase hits, building must start this year.

The Effect on the City:

The people who have not fully approved of the bond issue have not been thinking about their own personal tax increases, for the most part. They are for the schools, but they are thinking about the increased evaluation's effect on the economy of the city. They have a point: high evaluations might discourage prospective businesses and residents. On the other hand, top-quality schools will attract businesses and residents.

Another question has been whether or not bonding companies will consider College Station a good risk if the evaluations are raised too high. Rauscher, Peirce, and Company considers 10 per cent of the city's total value as a safe amount for bond indebtedness. This bond issue added to the present outstanding bond issues, will bring the indebtedness to \$920,000. With an estimated 16 million dollars worth of property in College Station, \$920,000 will be seven per cent of the total value. Bond experts have told the school board that they are sure they can find a market for the bonds.

What the Money Will Buy:

With the \$650,000 the school board plans first to construct a 10-room elementary school in College Hills, eliminating the necessity of those children crossing the highway.

A new, modern high school also would be built. It would have the features the present school now lacks: an auditorium, science rooms, and a music room. The present high school would be turned over to the lower grades.

The school board has been working hard on this plan for seven months. It was considered the most economical, over the other buildings plans discussed. By getting all the money in one lump sum, they believe money can be saved, both on cost of materials and bond fees.

With a 50 per cent tax increase, possibly effected over two or three years, the school board is certain that all outstanding bond issues can be paid off on schedule.

Who Can Vote:

There are three requirements for voting in the Tuesday election: Residence in the A&M Con-

solidated Independent School district

- Ownership of property on the school tax roll
A poll tax dated 1951, the one used this year in the presidential election

The election will be held in the Consolidated music room from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To Sum It Up:

Granted, \$650,000 is a lot of money, and a 50 per cent tax increase is a big one for College Station. But the school always

has been considered as one of the city's main assets. The residents have been proud of its high rating and the performance of its graduates in colleges all over the country.

The school board, which ought to know, considers their plan the best for both the school and the city, after careful consideration of all the facts. These men, who are your tax-paying neighbors, sincerely believe in what they've done.

(See CITY DESK, Page 4)

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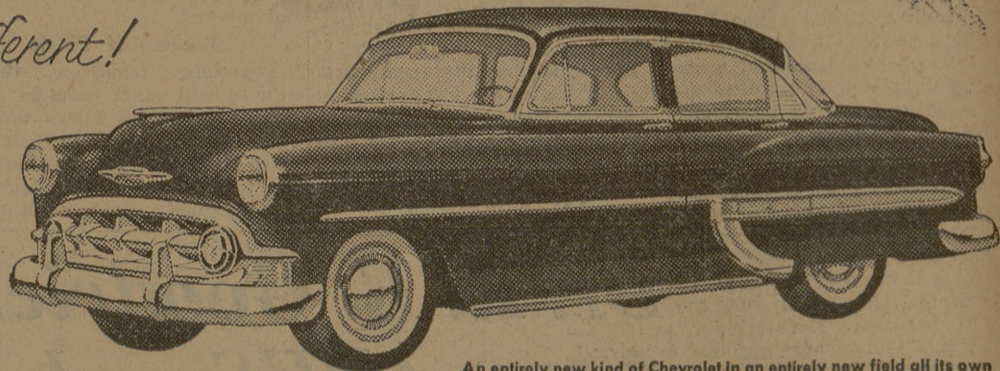
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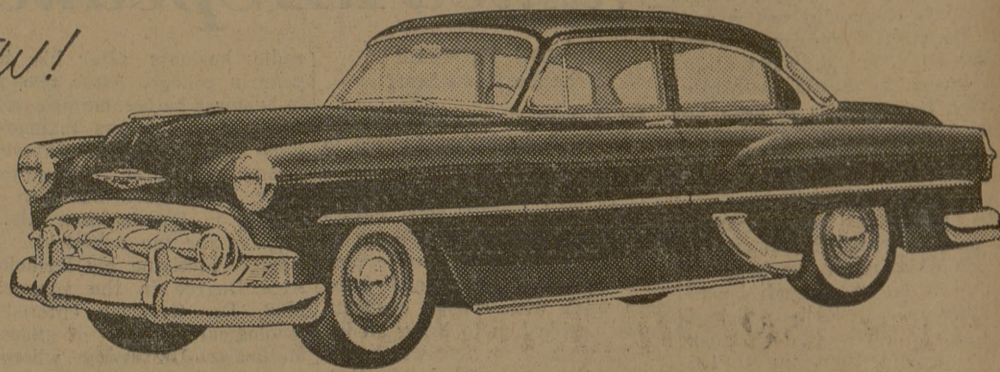


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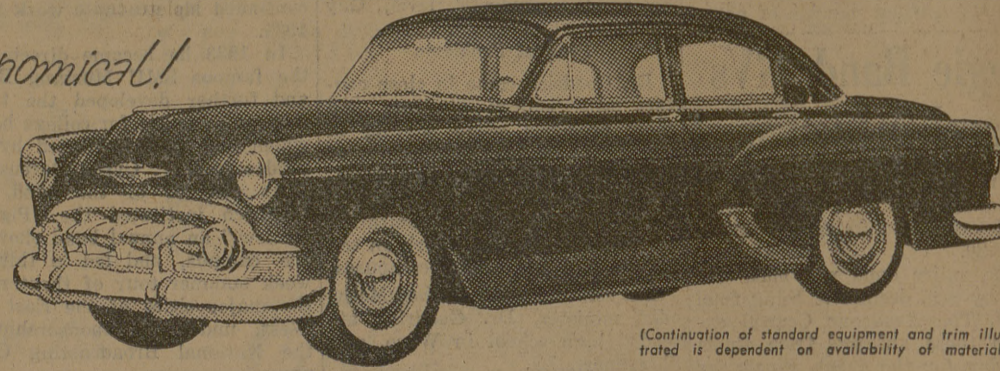
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